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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1954

*Health Department,
Rural Council House,
Lichfield.*

August, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department.

Taken as a whole, the health of the District was satisfactory during 1954. Thus, although there were more cases of scarlet fever, paralytic poliomyelitis and dysentery than in the previous year, the number of cases of measles was greatly reduced, and those of whooping cough moderately reduced, while no cases of diphtheria or food-poisoning were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis presented a less satisfying picture, the number of new cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis increasing, as compared with the previous year. Deaths from tuberculosis also showed a disappointing increase.

The vital statistics show no notable differences from previous years, the figures again comparing quite well with the national rates. The infant mortality rate, one of the most important, was again satisfactorily low. Unfortunately, unlike recent years, one death was related to childbirth.

Little increase proved to be practicable during the year in the Council's progress in dealing with unfit houses, 12 properties being dealt with in all, as compared with 8 properties in the previous year. However, action was initiated in relation to a further 27 houses before the end of the year. Work was also undertaken during the second half of the year on a survey of unfit houses, in order that the Council could decide on its programme for dealing with these during the next five years.

Progress in dealing with the Council's programme of sewerage development again proved disappointing. A Public Inquiry was, however, held during the year on the proposal to construct a new sewage works at Shenstone, designed to replace the present obsolete works. It is hoped that permission to proceed with this may be obtained in the near future. This scheme will, of course, have to be followed by others, in accordance with the priority scheme already agreed by the Council, as soon as permission can be obtained from the appropriate Ministry for the various schemes to proceed.

I should like, in ending this introductory note, to thank all Members of the Council and Officers in the Health and other Departments of the Council for their continued help and co-operation during 1954, and particularly to thank the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector for their help in preparing this Report.

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : The REV. J. H. EVANS

Vice-Chairman : F. N. BOWER, Esq.

and also

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mrs. E. BASKERVILLE | W. B. DEAKIN | J. C. LEES |
| Mrs. E. COLQUHOUN | A. DONE | A. E. LEGGE |
| Mrs. A. E. CRESSWELL | R. F. FODEN | P. H. MERCER |
| Mrs. F. K. KIRBY | E. E. FOSTER | W. NEVILL, O.B.E., C.A., J.P. |
| R. C. BREWSTER | W. GORING | J. B. NICHOLS |
| J. A. J. BRIANT | K. GRANGER | W. J. PARR |
| A. S. BROWN | F. HARRIS | L. H. POWELL |
| H. CARTER | W. F. HART, C.C. | R. H. RAMSAY |
| G. W. S. CLARKE | A. L. HEATH | H. C. RIDOUT, C.C. |
| J. CLIFFE | A. HEATHCOTE | W. J. RYMAN |
| P. J. DAUBNER | I. H. HOUSTON | W. J. SHAW |
| H. DEAKIN | C. W. HOWITT | H. V. SMITH |
| J. DEAKIN | C. H. W. G. INGE | G. P. STUBBS |
| G. E. WAKEMAN | A. L. WARD | M. G. WORMAN |
| W. E. WARD | | |

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : A. HEATHCOTE, Esq.

Vice-Chairman : Mrs. F. K. KIRBY

| | | |
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| CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL | E. E. FOSTER | H. C. RIDOUT |
| VICE-CHAIRMAN | K. GRANGER | W. J. RYMAN |
| J. A. J. BRIANT | A. L. HEATH | W. J. SHAW |
| G. W. S. CLARKE | C. W. HOWITT | G. P. STUBBS |
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| W. B. DEAKIN | L. H. POWELL | M. G. WORMAN |
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A.

P. R. BRAMLEY (*Appointed July, 1954*)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unlike previous years, the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, showed a slight decline. Rateable value and the net product of a penny rate continued the increases shown in recent years. The relevant figures for the general statistics are set out below :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84,715 |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42,580 |
| Number of inhabited houses at 1/4/54 according to Rate Books | | | | | | | | 10,314 |
| Rateable Value at 1/4/54 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | £203,204/10/0 |
| Net product of Penny Rate at 1/4/54 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | £789/4/4 |

As in all recent years, conditions of full employment continued throughout the District.

VITAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year are as follows :—

| Live Births— | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 285 | 274 | 559 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 295 | 282 | 577 |

Birth rate per 1,000 population ... 13·6

| Still Births— | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 8 |

Rate per 1,000 Total Births ... 13·7

| Deaths | | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 235 | 203 | 438 |

Death rate per 1,000 population... 10·3

Death rate in infants under one year of age—

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 26·8

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 0·0

All infants per 1,000 live births (Infant Mortality Rate) ... 25·9

Deaths from Cancer ... 70

Deaths from Measles ... 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough ... 1

About half of the total births occurred in hospital, beds appearing to be available for all mothers requiring them on either medical or social grounds.

As will be seen, none of the statistics differ very materially from those of recent years. Further particulars regarding causes of death are given in later paragraphs.

The following table sets out the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Lichfield Rural District, as compared with the rates for England and Wales as a whole, the Greater Towns and the Smaller Towns :—

| | LIVE BIRTHRATE | DEATH RATE | INFANT MORTALITY RATE |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| England and Wales | 15.2 | 11.3 | 25.5 |
| Greater Towns | 16.8 | 12.05 | 29.1 |
| Smaller Towns | 15.4 | 11.3 | 23.8 |
| LICHFIELD R. D. | 15.2 | 12.15 | 25.9 |

After adjustment for age and sex distribution, the birth rate is raised to 15.2, a figure identical with that for England and Wales as a whole, while the death rate is raised to 12.15, which is slightly higher than the figure for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate, a very important index of the health of the District's children, maintains the very satisfactory reduction of recent years.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS

| Year | Estimated Population | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infant Mortality Rate |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1945 | 32,710 | 19.04 | 10.0 | 48.0 |
| 1946 | 33,790 | 19.4 | 9.2 | 45.9 |
| 1947 | 34,400 | 21.5 | 9.97 | 43.47 |
| 1948 | 34,340 | 17.82 | 9.11 | 37.58 |
| 1949 | 37,740 | 18.72 | 10.1 | 49.2 |
| 1950 | 40,340 | 14.5 | 9.3 | 29.01 |
| 1951 | 41,940 | 13.9 | 8.2 | 37.8 |
| 1952 | 41,970 | 14.41 | 7.67 | 33.05 |
| 1953 | 43,180 | 13.5 | 8.3 | 22.3 |
| 1954 | 42,580 | 13.6 | 10.3 | 25.9 |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD DURING THE YEAR 1954.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Tuberculosis, other | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Syphilitic disease | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Meningococcal infections | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis... .. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ... | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 24 | 18 | 42 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 25 | 28 | 53 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 26 | 18 | 44 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Other heart disease | 41 | 43 | 84 |
| Other circulatory disease | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Influenza | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 14 | 12 | 26 |
| Bronchitis | 22 | 7 | 29 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum... .. | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 17 | 33 | 50 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| All other accidents | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Homicide and operations of war | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS ... | 235 | 203 | 438 |

As mentioned in my Report for 1953, the number of deaths recorded is increased by inclusion of certain deaths not previously included in the figures.

In view of the recent publicity in the press regarding cancer of the lung, it is interesting to note that deaths from this cause numbered 6 in 1954, as against 9 in 1953, 11 in 1952 and 12 in 1951. The numbers of cases occurring in the District are, of course, too small to allow conclusions to be drawn regarding the incidence of this disease. As usual, many more cases occurred in males than in females.

It may also be recorded that just one-half the deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age. The outstanding examples of longevity were one person who died at 96 years, 4 who died at 95 years, 3 who died at 93 years, 2 who died at 92 years and 1 who died at 91 years of age. No less than 26 persons were over 85 years of age at the time of death.

Of the deaths resulting from accidents, other than motor vehicle accidents, 5 occurred in elderly persons as a result of accidental falls. In 1 of these cases, death was actually due to burns sustained when falling on to an electric fire in the bedroom.

Pneumoconiosis was recorded as the primary cause of death in 2 cases, while it was given as a contributory cause of death in 1 further case.

It is sad to note that 1 mother lost her life during the year as a result of childbirth. This is the first death resulting from this cause for some years.

The causes of death of infants under 1 year, were recorded as follows :—

INFANT MORTALITY

| Causes of Death | Under 1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 4 weeks | 4 weeks and under 3 months | 3 months and under 6 months | 6 months and under 9 months | 9 months and under 1 year | Total Deaths under 1 year of age |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Prematurity | 6 | — | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Haemolytic Icterus | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Haematemesis | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Congenital Actelectasis | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Asphyxia | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kernicterus | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Totals | 14 | 1 | — | — | 15 | — | — | — | — | 15 |

It will be seen that, with one exception, all these deaths occurred in the first week of life, thus emphasising the tendency, mentioned in my last Report, for the greater proportion of infant deaths now to be included in this group.

HOUSING

The number of applicants for housing accommodation provided by the Council showed no sign of diminution during the year. Thus, although no less than 282 applicants were re-housed in new houses and 64 applicants in re-let houses during the year, the number of applicants on the waiting list was only reduced from 984 to 905. It is fairly obvious, however, that the number of houses occupied is increasing more rapidly than is the population of the District, and that the actual degree of overcrowding must therefore be decreasing from year to year.

Progress in securing the demolition of unfit houses continued to be slow during the year but, nevertheless, showed an improvement as compared with recent years. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 9 houses, while the Council accepted an undertaking in respect of a group of 3 houses that they would not be used again for human habitation until the Council is satisfied that they have been rendered fit for that purpose. Particulars of the properties in question are given below :—

| PROPERTY | ACTION TAKEN |
|---|---|
| House at Church Hollow, Edingale. | Demolition Order made by Council, dated 26th March, 1954. |
| Three Houses : Providence Place, Anglesey Sidings, Hammerwich. | Undertaking, accepted by Council, dated 10th November, 1954. |
| 13-27, Lichfield Road, Handsacre. | Demolition Orders made by Council, dated 31st December, 1954. |

Clearance Area procedure was commenced during the year in respect of 27 dwelling houses at Atherstone Street, Fazeley. A Public Inquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The result of this Inquiry was not announced till early in the present year, when the Minister confirmed the Council's action.

During the second half of the year, work was commenced in connection with a survey called for by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in order that he might be informed by the Council as to their programme for dealing with unfit houses in the District during the next five years. This survey was not, of course, completed before the end of the year. Sufficient had been done, however, to indicate the magnitude of the problem facing the Council in carrying out its statutory responsibility to secure the demolition of unfit houses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Compulsory removal of persons to hostel or hospital in order to secure necessary care and attention was not required during the year. As mentioned in earlier Reports, this action is reserved for very extreme cases, usually ones in which actual physical suffering is involved. Home help and nursing assistance were arranged on a number of occasions in order to allow elderly persons to remain at home in a reasonable degree of comfort until such time as they become bedfast. The number of persons in failing health who are living alone, often in very unfavourable housing circumstances, appears to increase year by year, and constitutes a serious social problem.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories continued to operate as in previous years, and proved, as always, most helpful both to general medical practitioners and myself.

Results of examinations carried out were as follows :—

Swabs :—

| | | | Positive | Negative | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|----------|-------|
| Throat | ... | ... | 10 | 47 | 57 |
| Nose | ... | ... | — | 5 | 5 |
| Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus | ... | ... | 19 | 125 | 144 |

Other Specimens :—

| | | | | Normal | Abnormal | Total |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|-------|
| Faeces | ... | ... | ... | 71 | 2 | 73 |
| Rectal | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Blood | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — | 5 |
| Urine | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Pus | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |

Samples of Drinking Water :—

| | | Fit | Unfit | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Chemical Examination | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bacteriological Examination | ... | 10 | 3 | 13 |

Other Water :—

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|---|----|
| Chemical Examination | ... | — | — | 15 |
| Bacteriological Examination | ... | — | — | 18 |

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for maternity patients has been referred to in an earlier paragraph. An arrangement was made during the year by which home conditions of chronic elderly sick patients in the District awaiting admission to hospital are investigated with a view to assessing the relative needs of various patients for admission on social grounds. This arrangement has had the advantage of ensuring that home nursing and home help assistance is provided in appropriate cases during the period prior to admission. The shortage of hospital beds for chronic sick patients, which has led to this arrangement being made, is, of course, a reflection of the shortage of such accommodation throughout the country.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

As in previous years, the ambulance, home help, domiciliary nursing and maternal and child welfare services continued under the administration of the County Council.

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment of the various venereal diseases is, as in earlier years, centred on the large hospitals in Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Burton-on-Trent and Stafford, where diagnostic work is, of course, carried out. No information is, therefore, available as to the incidence of these diseases in the District.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, as compared with the number of cases notified during the four previous years :—

| NATURE OF CASE | TOTAL 1950 | TOTAL 1951 | TOTAL 1952 | TOTAL 1953 | TOTAL 1954 | MALE | FEMALE | AGE DISTRIBUTION | DEATHS |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------|--------|--|--------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 59 | 132 | 42 | 59 | 65 | 41 | 24 | Under 1 ... 0 1 - 2 ... 1 3 - 4 ... 13 5 - 9 ... 31 10 - 14 ... 10 15 - 24 ... 8 Over 25 ... 0 Age N.K. ... 2 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 97 | 244 | 75 | 101 | 52 | 27 | 25 | Under 1 ... 2 1 - 2 ... 5 3 - 4 ... 12 5 - 9 ... 31 10 - 14 ... 1 15 - 24 ... 0 Over 25 ... 0 Age N.K. ... 1 | 1 |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | 16 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | — | Under 1 ... 1 1 - 2 ... 1 Over 25 ... 1 | — |
| Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis | 9 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 5 - 9 ... 1 | — |
| Measles | 371 | 454 | 109 | 690 | 13 | 9 | 4 | Under 1 ... 1 1 - 2 ... 4 3 - 4 ... 1 5 - 9 ... 3 15 - 24 ... 4 | — |
| Pneumonia | 56 | 102 | 44 | 59 | 42 | 35 | 7 | Under 5 ... 3 5 - 14 ... 4 15 - 44 ... 26 45 - 64 ... 6 65 and over 2 Age N.K. ... 1 | 26 |
| Dysentery | 2 | 123 | 23 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 9 | Under 5 ... 10 5 - 14 ... 3 15 - 44 ... 4 45 - 64 ... 1 | — |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 6 | Under 1 ... 0 5 - 14 ... 1 15 - 44 ... 4 45 - 64 ... 4 65 and over 2 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | 1 | 2 | — | 3 | — | 3 | | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | | — |

As will be seen from the table, the picture is a variable one in respect of the various diseases, the incidence of scarlet fever and dysentery showing an increase, while measles and whooping cough both showed a marked reduction on the previous year. It is too early as yet to say what effect the newly introduced immunisation against whooping cough is likely to have on the incidence of the disease. The reduction in the number of cases of measles is, of course, of no significance at all, as the incidence of this disease usually fluctuates within very wide limits from year to year.

It is again pleasing to note that no case of diphtheria occurred in the District during the year. As mentioned in my last Report, however, other parts of the county, including areas quite near Lichfield, are not so fortunate. The need for continued emphasis on immunisation against diphtheria in childhood and re-immunisation on entry to school and again at 10 years is, therefore, obvious. As in previous years, immunisation was made available at the infant welfare clinics for the pre-school children, at the schools for the school-children, and at the general medical practitioners' surgeries for both groups.

No case, either actual or suspected, of smallpox occurred during the year. It is a great pity that too many people are lulled into a false sense of security by the relative rarity of the disease in these days, and so neglect the undoubted protection given by vaccination, which is, of course, best given in early infancy.

Satisfaction at the fact that no cases of food-poisoning were notified during the year would be greater if it were not for the additional fact that more cases of dysentery were notified than in the previous year, and if it were not also known that many cases of this disease escape notification. In many cases, the disease only causes slight diarrhoea for a few days, which is not reported to the family doctor. The infectious origin is, therefore, usually not suspected. The relative prevalence of the disease makes it very important, however, to realise that the disease is of infectious origin, and can be passed to others by contamination of food by hands which have not been thoroughly washed after a visit to the toilet. The danger is, of course, mostly increased if the food contaminated is a meat or milk product, which allows the germs to grow in ideal surroundings, and if growth is allowed to continue in these surroundings for 2, 3 or 4 days, before the food is eaten.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease, during the year :—

| AGE PERIOD | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 5 years | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—10 years | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 10—15 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—20 years | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20—25 years | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 25—35 years | 2 | 6 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35—45 years | 2 | 4 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45—55 years | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| 55—65 years | 5 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Over 65 years | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Age Unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 17 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | — | 1 |

The increase in the number of new cases diagnosed is most disappointing, particularly as it indicates a continuance of the increases seen in recent years. It may be that the increase can partly be ascribed to better and earlier diagnosis than in previous years, in that patients are now notified in circumstances in which they would not have been notified some years ago. The figures prove, however, that tuberculosis, although in theory entirely preventable, is still a relatively common infectious disease. The figures showing the comparison with earlier years are set out below :—

| YEAR | NEW CASES | | DEATHS | |
|------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary |
| 1935 | 29 | 6 | 14 | 2 |
| 1936 | 22 | 2 | 14 | — |
| 1937 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 2 |
| 1938 | 14 | 11 | Figures not available | |
| 1939 | 19 | 9 | Figures not available | |
| 1940 | 25 | 5 | Figures not available | |
| 1941 | 22 | 4 | 14 | 5 |
| 1942 | 12 | 6 | 14 | 7 |
| 1943 | 15 | 2 | 11 | 3 |
| 1944 | 21 | 4 | 14 | 2 |
| 1945 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 1946 | 19 | 6 | 11 | 2 |
| 1947 | 22 | 7 | 11 | 3 |
| 1948 | 22 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| 1949 | 21 | 5 | 3 | — |
| 1950 | 20 | 12 | 5 | 2 |
| 1951 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 1952 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 2 |
| 1953 | 30 | 3 | 6 | — |
| 1954 | 37 | 7 | 9 | 1 |

Patients suffering from tuberculosis were admitted to the following hospitals and sanatoria :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Prestwood Sanatorium | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Outwood's Hospital, Burton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Market Drayton | ... | | | | 1 |
| Buxton Infirmary | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Groundslow Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Ivy House, Cannock | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tamworth Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Connaught Hospital, Hindhead, Surrey | ... | | | | 1 |

It is obvious that other patients will almost certainly have been admitted to institutions not mentioned above. Information regarding these is not available. There appears to be good reason for believing, however, that the average waiting-time for admission to a sanatorium is now very much shorter than it was some years ago. This should, over a period of time, lead to a reduction both in the number of new cases and in the number of deaths from the disease.

Arrangements for supervision of tuberculous patients continued during the year as set out in my Report for 1953.

The organism causing tuberculosis was found during the year in no less than 22 samples of milk produced in the District, as compared with 19 occasions during the previous year. This emphasises all too clearly the fact that many herds in the District, as in the country generally, still fail to reach a satisfactory standard of health. On the occasions when tuberculous infection was found in the milk, action was taken to secure heat treatment of the milk until such time as the infected animal could be discovered and slaughtered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Sampling of milk and other foods is carried out by the various Sampling Officers appointed by the County Council in its capacity of Food and Drugs Authority for the area. The results of examination of milk for cleanliness, presence of tuberculous infection, and efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation were as follows :—

| Grade of Milk | | | DETAILS (AND SIGNIFICANCE) OF TESTS | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|---|--------|--|--------|-----------------------------------|------|
| | | | Meth. Blue (Cleanliness) | | Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion) | | Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion) | | Biological (Tuber- culosis) | |
| | | | Sat. | Unsat. | Sat. | Unsat. | Sat. | Unsat. | Neg. | Pos. |
| T.T. | ... | ... | 16 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 14 | — |
| Accredited | ... | ... | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | 1 |
| T.T. (Past.) | ... | ... | 44 | 1 | 46 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pasteurised | ... | ... | 64 | 2 | 64 | 1 | — | — | 5 | — |
| Sterilised | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 33 | — | — | — |
| Undesignated | ... | ... | 68 | 20 | — | — | — | — | 90 | 3 |
| Totals | ... | ... | 197 | 24 | 110 | 1 | 33 | — | 118 | 4 |

The figures relating to tuberculous infection in the above tables do not agree with the figures mentioned in my previous paragraph because those figures included positive results discovered during sampling of bulk supplies received in Birmingham from producers in this District. These could not be included in the table because information in such cases is only passed on when the sampling has revealed infection. It is interesting to note that the four samples of milk found to contain tuberculosis organisms included three samples of undesignated milk, the remaining one being from an accredited milk. This indicates the relative danger of such supplies when compared with T.T., pasteurised and sterilized milks. It is, therefore, satisfactory to be able to record that a start was made during the year in designating part of the District as an area in which only "designated" milk, of the types mentioned above, may be sold. Arrangements are now proceeding for the inclusion of the remaining part of the District in a similar Order, which is made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This is a notable advance, which should reduce the incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in future years. Results of the other tests were similar to those in previous years, only a slight improvement occurring in the results of tests for the cleanliness of milk. As stated in my last Report, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the cleanliness of the premises and utensils concerned.

I am indebted to Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following information regarding the results of other samples taken in the District during 1954 :—

| Nature of Food | Number of Samples Taken | Findings on Examination |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| MILK : | | |
| Milk | 18 | Genuine |
| Milk, Tuberculin Tested | 1 | Genuine |
| Milk, Pasteurised | 45 | Genuine |
| Milk, Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested | 24 | Genuine |
| Milk, Channel Islands, T.T. Past ... | 8 | Genuine |
| Milk, Sterilised | 21 | (20) Genuine |
| GENERAL FOODS : | | (1) 4.2% added water |
| Beef and Ham Paste, Banana Whip, Brandy Snaps, Butter, Blackberries in Syrup, Crab Paste, Cooking Fat, Condensed Milk, Cornish Crab, Corned Beef, Currants, Desiccated Coconut, Eucalyptus Oil, Game Soup, Glucose Fruit Drops, Glaced Cherries, Ground Rice, Ground Almonds, Jam—Cherry, Jam—Greengage, Table Jelly, Bramble Jelly, Ice Cream, Christmas Pudding, Lentils, Lard, Margarine, Milk of Magnesia, Malt Vinegar, Mixed Peel, Mixed Fruit, Orange Drink, Olive Oil, Orange Crush, Stoned Raisins, Shredded Suet, Sausages—Pork, Sausages—Beef, Sausages—Cocktail, Sauce, Sultanas, Scotch Broth, Oxtail Soup, Steak Pudding, Tea, Tapioca, Tuna Steak, Tomato Juice, Tomato Juice Cocktail. | 62 | Genuine |

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

| PREMISES | NUMBER OF | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Factories with mechanical power ... | 58 | 2 | — |
| Factories without mechanical power ... | 9 | 2 | — |
| Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises) | — | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 67 | 4 | — |

2. Defects Found and Action Taken

| PARTICULARS | NUMBER OF DEFECTS | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred by H.M. Inspector | In respect of which Prosecutions were instituted |
| Want of cleanliness ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation ... | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — |
| Insufficient ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sanitary Unsuitable or | | | | |
| Conveniences defective ... | 3 | 3 | 3 | — |
| Not separate for sexes ... | — | — | — | — |
| No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire | — | | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 6 | 6 | 6 | — |

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

(Prepared by J. G. RIMAND, Esq., M.I.MUN.E., *Engineer and Surveyor*)

Generally throughout the district disposal works have been well maintained and kept in condition by the workmen employed by you. Final effluents have been below the standard of recent years ; this, in my opinion, is due to the effect that household detergents, now used as a substitute for soap, are having on the process of sewage purification. Investigations are being made with a view to overcoming this problem, but up to the present same have not been successful. It should be noted that several disposal works need enlargement owing to building development, and that this should be given serious consideration during the coming year.

Alrewas.—The sewage disposal works at Alrewas is working satisfactorily, but the flow from the Village has increased, due to the erection of new houses, and the works is now working to capacity and extensions are necessary to deal with future development.

In the village of Fradley the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory and steps will have to be taken at a later date to connect either to the Alrewas system or to provide a separate disposal works.

Armitage and Longdon.—The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes is working very satisfactorily. A large number of houses have been connected to the new sewers and, in consequence, conditions have considerably improved. The small sewage disposal works at Armitage has had its reserve capacity absorbed, and consideration will have to be given in the near future to its being replaced with a pumping plant, discharging into the new disposal works.

Brindley Heath.—A new disposal works has been constructed to deal with the housing development at Brindley Heath Road and the adjoining Pit Head Baths, and is working satisfactorily.

The existing works at Brindley Village will be abandoned as soon as the Village is demolished.

The works at Penkridge Bank is working satisfactorily.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily, but the Peter's Lane, Edial, disposal works are in need of enlargement to deal with the increased flow and the large quantity of storm water received, together with improvements in the methods of sludge disposal. This matter will have to be given serious attention in the very near future.

Chasetown.—The works at Chasetown, having regard to the large housing development at Oakdene, are being overhauled and some minor improvements carried out in order to give a satisfactory effluent with the much increased flow. This work should be completed during June, 1955.

Clifton Campville.—The sewerage system of this village is very inadequate. I have, however, constructed a tank and filter bed as a temporary measure, and this has resulted in a considerable improvement in the discharge from the local sewers.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the disposal works in the next few years.

Curborough and Elmhurst.—The pumping station and disposal works near to the outfall of the sewer in the Elmhurst portion of the parish, whilst effecting a considerable improvement, has at times discharged an effluent below standard. There has however been an improvement of late and it is hoped that this will continue.

Drayton Bassett.—The pumping station and disposal works constructed to deal with the sewage from the Council's housing estate is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken in the future to deal with same.

Edingale.—The small pumping station and disposal works, constructed to deal with the Council houses, is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage system of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken at a very early date to put this in order.

Fazeley.—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak, and the main sewer is inadequate. I prepared a scheme shortly before the war for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow, and the construction of a new disposal works, but this has had to be deferred, owing to the war. Since the war, a sewage pumping station has been constructed at Brookend, Fazeley, to deal with the sewage from the housing estate. This is working satisfactorily.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working fairly satisfactorily, and the work carried out during the year to one of the bacteria beds has resulted in an improved effluent. The remaining bed is now being overhauled.

A scheme is now being prepared to deal with Newtown, which will mean the construction of a small disposal works.

Hamstall Ridware.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village, but it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time.

Harlaston.—An electric pump has been installed during the year and has resulted in an improved effluent.

Hopwas.—These works, which were re-constructed before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small disposal works, but, as in the case of Hamstall Ridware, it appears unlikely that same will be carried out for some little time. In the meantime, the tank constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall is working satisfactorily.

Mavesyn Ridware.—The small pumping station and disposal plants constructed in Hill Ridware and Blithbury, in order to deal with the sewage from the Council houses, are working satisfactorily. The general sewerage position of Hill Ridware is, however, unsatisfactory, and will have to be dealt with in the near future.

Shenstone.—The disposal works is now so badly overloaded as to possibly cause a complete breakdown. A scheme is under consideration which will provide for a modern works on a new site. The pumping stations at Lynn Lane and Wood End are working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Lynn is working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Little Aston are giving a satisfactory effluent, even though they are working to capacity. The question of the enlargement of these works is under consideration with a view to dealing with a portion of the Aldridge Urban District.

Streethay.—These works were re-constructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. Camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided, and these are working satisfactorily.

Swinfen and Packington.—The disposal works at Botany Bay, to deal with the Council Housing Estate, is working very satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works for this village is working satisfactorily and most of the village is now connected. The Muckley Corner end of the Parish will, however, need attention in the future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich, in order that this will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane disposal works.

Wigginton.—Conditions, in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewered, are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Whittington.—The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. Consideration, however, will have to be given, in the not-so-distant future, for the modernising of same.

Elford, Gentleshaw, Hints and Weeford.—There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these parishes, which have been considered, along with the remainder of the district, by the Health Committee, to whom a report has been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of the priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps are being taken to implement the Committee's decision.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District for 1954.

The year was an eventful one so far as the administration of the Health Department was concerned. There were considerable changes in legislation on matters affecting housing conditions generally. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation on 30th August, 1954. Detail of the work involved in this Act is contained in the section of this Report which deals with Housing, together with complete detail of the action taken by the Council in dealing with an area of 27 houses in the Parish of Fazeley, by means of Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936.

In addition to the changes in Housing legislation there was the return to private slaughtering of livestock by butchers, following the announcement by the Government that the rationing of meat and control of slaughtering would terminate on 1st July, 1954. This placed a heavy burden of duty on your Sanitary Inspectors who undertake the inspection of food, and I am grateful to the Council for their prompt action in appointing an additional Sanitary Inspector to the Department. This appointment was made by promoting Mr. P. Bramley, who was already qualified and had just returned from National Service.

Finally, I would express my thanks to the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff for their continued support and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

August, 1955.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the Parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board.

Part of the Parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The Parish or parts thereof, of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall, are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Generally speaking the Council can be well satisfied with the position regarding piped water supplies to houses throughout the district. Only a small number of houses in the more rural parts of the district are now without a mains supply.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for the following information relative to the piped water supplies of the District :—

1. “ The water supply during 1954 has been satisfactory in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply not only the Rural District, but other areas as well.

Regular and frequent samples from all stations are examined both bacteriologically and chemically, and where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations of the raw water are carried out.

Regular samples are examined from the service reservoir and re-pumping station at Gentleshaw, as well as from various taps and hydrants in the area. During the year 65 samples from Gentleshaw Reservoir and 65 from Gentleshaw Repumping Station were all free from coliform bacteria.

Out of a total of 132 samples taken from scattered points in the district only 2 contained any coliform bacteria. These were from Hamstall Ridware, intermediate bacteria being present on both occasions.

Owing to the number of supplying stations, the complexity of distribution, and the relatively large area involved, wide variations in the chemical composition of the water supplied are found. In 1954, the hardness of the water at the following places averaged :—

- 122 parts per million at Chase Terrace.
- 181 parts per million at Clifton Campville.
- 265 parts per million at Fradley Aerodrome.
- 181 parts per million at Hamstall Ridware.
- 211 parts per million at Little Aston.

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency and 132 tap samples examined during 1954 were all free from any definite quantities of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the Pumping Stations, but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fitting or structure is carried out and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. (a) The number of dwelling houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1954, was 8,502, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.75 persons per house was 31,882.
- (b) The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes at the end of 1954 was 51, or an estimated population of 191 persons served by this means based on the average of 3.75 persons per house."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1954-31st March, 1955

The cost of the Council's Public Cleansing Service, so far as can be estimated, pending balance of the Council's accounts for the year under review, amounted to £18,800.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government received representations against the Council's proposals to use certain land as a refuse tip in the Parish of Armitage. An Engineering Inspector of the Ministry visited the site concerned. Following his report the Ministry submitted recommendations to the Council for their consideration. As a result of this the Council placed an order for the supply of mechanical equipment which would enable refuse tips in various parts of the district to be maintained in accordance with the recommendations. The mechanical equipment was delivered at the end of the year under review, and at the preparation of this report it can be said that it has enabled the refuse tips generally to be maintained in a very much better standard.

In the early part of the year the Council considered and approved a scheme of Bonus payment to employees. The scheme covered the Council's services in relation to (a) refuse removal, (b) pail closets, (c) earth closets and (d) cesspool emptying. The scheme commenced on 1st October, 1954, and has since resulted in far greater efficiency of the services concerned.

HOUSING

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation on 30th August, 1954. The Act places specific responsibilities on all local authorities for (1) the clearance and replacement of houses which are unfit for human habitation (2) the enforcement of essential repairs and (3) the encouragement of improvements and conversions. In addition the Act allows a "repairs increase" of the rents of controlled houses, by landlords, under certain conditions. Where action is taken by the landlord in this respect and the tenant considers that the premises are not in good repair or that they are not reasonably suitable for occupation, he can apply to the local authority for a "Certificate of Disrepair." If this is granted no sum is recoverable by way of "repairs increase" so long as the certificate is in force.

(a) **Housing Act, 1936—Section 11 (Demolition Orders)**

During the year official representations were considered by the Health Committee in respect of thirteen properties which were found to be unfit for habitation. Demolition Orders were made in respect of nine houses and in the remaining cases the Committee accepted undertakings from the owners that the houses would not be used for human habitation until they had been rendered fit for that purpose. In every case the tenants were re-housed by the Council.

(b) **Housing Act, 1936—Section 25 (Clearance Area)**

In the Report for 1953 I mentioned that inspections were commenced of a block of houses, Nos. 3-57 Atherstone Street, Fazeley, with a view to their being represented for action under the provisions of Section 25, Housing Act, 1936. On the 26th March, 1954, the Council accepted an official representation from the Medical Officer of Health and declared the area to be a "Clearance Area," at the same time making a Compulsory Purchase Order to deal with the whole area. The Clearance Area comprised a total of 27 houses covering 1.18 acres and with a population of 85 persons. The density was 22.89 houses to the acre and 72.02 persons to the acre. The average number of persons was 3.1 per house.

The Order, defined as Fazeley, Atherstone Street, Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954, was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. A Public Local Inquiry was held at Fazeley by an Inspector of the Ministry on 7th September, 1954. On 16th February, 1955, the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Council's Order with modification. The necessary formalities of procedure are now in progress to secure the eventual clearance and demolition of the buildings in the Area and the redevelopment of the site.

(c) **Repairs to Houses**

The following table indicates the extent to which defects were remedied during the year, under the provisions of the Public Health Act and Housing Acts :—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Defective or insufficient closet accommodation | ... | ... | 26 |
| Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage | ... | ... | 69 |
| Defective roofs, spouting, external brickworks, etc. | ... | ... | 76 |
| Insufficient or defective light or ventilation | ... | ... | 1 |
| Dampness | ... | ... | 30 |
| Water supply | ... | ... | 7 |
| Offensive accumulations | ... | ... | 47 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | 18 |
| Defective plaster, floors and other internal defects | ... | ... | 155 |
| Defective ashbins | ... | ... | 40 |
| Defective paving | ... | ... | 1 |
| Vermin and rat infestation | ... | ... | 39 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | 18 |
| In addition, nuisances were abated as follows :— | | | |
| Refuse tips | ... | ... | 20 |
| River and stream pollution | ... | ... | 4 |

(d) **Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 (Certificates of Disrepair)**

This Act came into operation on 30th August, 1954. It had been anticipated that the introduction of this Act, which allows a “repairs increase” of the rents of controlled houses, would lead to a considerable number of applications from tenants for “Certificates of Disrepair” under Section 26 of the Act. This situation did not, however, materialise and at the end of the year only 3 applications had been received, and these were all granted.

(e) **Provision of New Houses**

The following table gives details of the Council’s progress in the construction of new houses from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1954 :—

| | Under Construction | Completed | Temporary Houses |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| By Private Building ... | 49 | 263 | — |
| By Council ... | 166 | 1,417 | 146 |

In the letting of these new houses every consideration is given by the Council to representations made by the Health Department on behalf of families occupying overcrowded or seriously unsuitable houses.

(f) **Squatters**

It is anticipated that the few remaining occupants of the hutments on portions of the R.A.F. Camp at Brindley Heath will be re-housed on the Council’s new housing site in this Parish during the course of the current year. This will then terminate a housing position that for some years has been a constant source of anxiety to the Council.

(g) Housing Act, 1949

During the year under review there was an increasing interest on the part of owners in the facilities afforded by this Act to secure grants towards the cost of undertaking works which add to a house amenities and conveniences, normally provided in a house of modern construction. On receipt of an inquiry the property is visited by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself and the applicant is given advice as to whether his proposals would come within the scope of the Act. This action enables an applicant to understand the full implications of his proposals before undertaking any expenses in the preparation of his scheme, and then finding that it cannot be accepted by the Council for one reason or another. Our experience has been that many owners are willing to carry out the works of improvement, but when faced, at the same time, with the need to carry out works of repair, find that the total expense is more than they are prepared to undertake. In order that the Act may be implemented to its fullest extent, the Council have always approved the maximum grant possible.

During the year 23 applications for Improvement Grants were received and approved by the Council, having a total grant payment of approximately £6,785.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The requirements of this Act have generally been observed throughout the district. A few shopkeepers were given verbal warnings regarding closing hours, but in no case was it necessary to recommend the institution of formal proceedings.

RODENT CONTROL

The work involved under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, has been well maintained.

A total of 235 visits were made by the Council's part-time rodent operator. Although no serious cases of infestation were reported very careful attention was given in all instances brought to the notice of the department. Refuse tips in various parts of the district, which obviously are a potential source of breeding ground, received very close attention and infestations have been only of a minor character.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat and Food Inspection

As mentioned earlier in this report, July marked the end of meat rationing and of the control of livestock slaughtering by the Ministry of Food. Careful consideration was given by the Council to the local situation thus created, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider and make recommendations on the matter. This Committee inspected all private slaughterhouses in the Council's district which were in use prior to the war, and as a result 14 of these were licensed to operate again subject, in the majority of cases, to the occupier carrying out works of reconstruction or repairs to the premises. In 10 of these premises regular slaughtering took place for the remainder of the year and regular inspection of them was maintained.

Two Knackers' Yard licences were granted. In one case, the buildings previously used for this purpose were discontinued during the year because of their inadequacy for the purposes of this trade, and were replaced with a new establishment, of more modern standards, on an adjoining site.

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year as being unfit for human consumption amounted to $23\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

Details are given in the following table :—

(a) DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

| All Diseases, except Tuberculosis : | | | | | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|
| CATTLE : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | 8 | 5 | 3 | 13 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 8 | 0 | 5 |
| CALVES : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | — | 5 | 3 | 14 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | 23 |
| SHEEP : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | — | 6 | 3 | 25 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| PIGS : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | 2 | 10 | 0 | 12 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | 14 | 2 | 13 |
| Tuberculosis only : | | | | | | | | |
| CATTLE : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | 3 | 12 | 3 | 6 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| CALVES : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | — | 3 | 1 | 21 |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 6 |
| SHEEP : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | — | — | — | — |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| PIGS : | Carcase Meat | ... | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | Offals | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 | 3 | 26 |
| TOTAL | | | | | 23 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

(b) OTHER FOODS

| | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Tinned Fruit and Vegetables | — | — | — | 16 |
| Tinned Meat | — | — | 3 | 10 |
| Cheese... | — | — | 1 | 11 |
| TOTAL | — | 1 | 1 | 9 |

The following table of carcasses inspected and condemned is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

| | CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS | COWS | CALVES | SHEEP | PIGS |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Number killed | 1274 | 1991 | 1178 | 7114 | 9312 |
| Number inspected | 1274 | 1991 | 872 | 2468 | 9242 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | 3 | 33 | 8 | 11 | 26 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 92 | 417 | 12 | 107 | 188 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 7.45 | 22.61 | 2.24 | 4.78 | 2.31 |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | 6 | 41 | — | — | 6 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 95 | 401 | 2 | — | 366 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... | 7.92 | 22.21 | .23 | — | 4.025 |

(b) Ice Cream Premises

Only one manufacturer of ice cream now remains on the register. His premises are equipped to use a "Hot Mix" plant in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

During the year eight shops were registered for the retail sale of ice cream, bringing the total number of such shops on the register to 77. These were periodically inspected and were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner. Seven samples of ice cream were submitted to the Bacteriological Laboratories, Stafford, for examination. The samples were graded as follows :—

Grade 1-3 ; Grade 2-3 ; Grade 3-1.

All samples of ice cream were manufactured outside the District, but sold locally.

(c) Cafes and Catering Establishments

Inspections of these premises again proved that, with minor exceptions, they were well conducted and satisfactorily maintained.

(d) Foodshops

It is pleasing to note that the trend towards more hygienic conditions in foodshops, to which reference was made in my last report, has continued, and little trouble has been experienced throughout the year in respect of the general conduct of these premises.



